29th November 1955]

(*d*) Anthropologists and several doctors from foreign countries have visited the Toda munds and examined their common diseases. Blood tests are being conducted regularly by the Medical Department to combat the maladies from which Todas are suffering. About 90 per cent of the Todas have been cured of their ailments through proper treatment by the Mobile Medical Unit.

Public holidays for "Onam" and "Vishu"

* 2951 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a memorandum dated 20th June 1955, from the Bank Employees' Association, Kozhikode, requesting them to declare "Onam" and "Vishu" as public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) At present "Onam" and "Vishu" are declared as general holidays for the State Government Offices in the Malabar district. In addition, the day before and the day next to "Onam" are local holidays in that district, in substitution of two penultimate Saturdays. The request of the Bank Employees' Association, Kozhikode, for declaring "Onam" and "Vishu" as public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act, was considered by Government and it has been decided, that in view of the inconvenience that is likely to be caused to banks and commercial bodies as a result of any change, and in view of the facilities provided already in Malabar for the observance of "Onam" and "Vishu", there was no need to change the existing practice in regard to the grant of holidays for these two festivals. The Vice-President of the Association was informed accordingly.

Service conditions of workers in Polytechnics

* 2952 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any memorandum during June 1955 from the workers attached to the Madurai Polytechnic workshop regarding regularization of their service conditions; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The question of regularization of the service conditions of the workers employed in the Madurai Polytechnic is being examined by the Government.